



**The International Wine & Food Society**  
***IWFS* Americas Inc.**

*Presents*

**SWISS ALPS, PALACES,  
CASTLES & CUSTOM WINE  
TOURS**

**August 19-26, 2024**

***Rhine River***

# ABOUT THE RHINE RIVER CRUISE:

IWFS Americas Inc. has chartered every cabin on the AMAMora, an AMA Waterways luxury ship that will take you from the dramatic Swiss Alps to the languid canals of Amsterdam. (To find out more about AMA Waterways, please click here: [About AMA Waterways](#).) As you sail the length of the Rhine, you will take in views of ancient castles and vineyards that produce some of the world's greatest wines. Fascinating tours fill your days, and great wines paired with gourmet meals made from the freshest locally-sourced ingredients await you at the dinner table every night.

One of the highlights of this cruise is the opportunity to see the UNESCO World Heritage-listed castles that line the Rhine River. These castles, such as the iconic Lahneck Castle and the stunning Bruhl Palace, offer a glimpse into the region's rich history and medieval architecture. You will behold the wonder that is the Mannheim Baroque Palace. Exploring these ancient walls and towers will transport you back in time, allowing you to imagine the lives of the nobles who once resided within.

In addition to the castles, the Rhine River Wine Cruise offers a chance to sample some of the finest wines produced in the different regions we will be visiting. The Rhine Valley is renowned for its Riesling, pinot blanc, Gewürztraminer and pinot noir wines, among other varietals. You will have the opportunity to visit local wineries and vineyards, where you can learn about the winemaking process from wine experts and taste a wide variety of their exquisite wines.

Whether you are a wine enthusiast, history buff, or simply seeking a relaxing and scenic getaway, a Rhine River Wine Cruise with UNESCO castles is an unforgettable experience. This cruise combines the best of Swiss, French, and German culture, history, and natural beauty. If you are a photographer, you will have the opportunity of a lifetime.

**\*\*We will offer a separate pre-cruise option which will include a hotel and a welcome dinner on August 18, 2024. This option will be in addition to the cruise price, details forthcoming. (This event is not mandatory to join the cruise.)**

# DAY 1 - BASEL

One of Switzerland's most cosmopolitan cities, Basel is home to 40 museums (the highest concentration in the nation). It also boasts a picturesque Old Town and richly decorated Market Square, a 500-year-old Rathaus (town hall), and a variety of small boutiques offering treasured souvenirs. Indulge in the confectioneries' pralines and truffles. Foodies may wish to visit any of the city's more than 20 Michelin-rated/highly rated restaurants.



*Basel*



*Paula Sidore*

➤ **Meet Paula Sidore**, the wine expert who will be traveling with us on our Rhine River cruise. Before dinner, Paula will give a brief introduction to Swiss wines. We will taste five wines from this underappreciated wine region.

Each night of our cruise, Paula will speak about the wines being served at dinner. She will also conduct special tastings both on and off the ship.

Paula Sidore is a writer, editor, and translator who moves smoothly between the worlds of wine and words. She is the co-founder of *TRINK* magazine, a digital publication dedicated to bringing the wines of Germany, Austria, Alto Adige, and Switzerland to English speakers. She is the German and Austrian regional specialist for *jancisrobinson.com* and a member of the Circle of Wine Writers. Paula has a Master's degree in writing, which informs her wine commentary. She lives with her family on the northern wall of the winegrowing region in Bonn, Germany.

# DAY 2 - BREISACH

Step through the pages of history as you stroll through the charmingly narrow, cobbled streets of Breisach, a beautiful town overlooking the Rhine River. Houses painted in lovely pastel-colored hues and window boxes overflowing with colorful flowers seem to grace nearly every fairytale lane in this UNESCO World Heritage Site. A collection of artifacts dating from the present back to the Stone Age can be found in the city's museum.



## › Morning and Afternoon

Wine expert and Alsace historian David Ling has arranged a Routes des Vines tour for us. After breakfast, three buses will depart from the ship for Château de Kintzheim.

- Departure to Château de Kintzheim.
- Reception by the Confrérie St-Etienne (France's oldest wine guild) at the Château with a "set the scene" talk about Alsace wines and their histories, accompanied by some wine and Kougelhopf cake. Next, is a rapid visit to the wine library (65,000 bottles dating back to 1834).
- Departure in buses, all going to the Cattin family's winery in Voegtlinshoffen.
- Crémant d'Alsace reception at Cattin's Belvedere terrace overlooking the Rhine valley. Take in the view of the Swiss Alps to the south to Strasbourg in the north as you face the Baden vineyards and the Black Forest.
- Next is a brief presentation of the Cattin family winery. Enjoy a seated, shared-platter light lunch of charcuterie, cold meats, cheeses, salad, etc., dessert and coffee, accompanied by the three top wines from the Domaine.
- After lunch, you will depart on buses for winery visits and tastings. Included on our tour will be Gustave Lorentz Winery, Emile Beyer, Muré Winery, Georges Scherb, Josmeyer in Wintzenheim and Domaine Weinbach in Kaysersberg. (Please note that the final list of wineries is subject to change, we are still finalizing this part of the itinerary).
- Departure of each bus to return to the ship at Breisach.
- Dinner — Our host, David Ling, will conduct an Alsatian wine tasting paired with our evening meal.



David Ling

## > David Ling

Son of a Chester wine merchant, David Ling's childhood was steeped in wine and hospitality. Career Plan A (RAF fighter pilot) failed, so plan B (UK wine trade) followed. After passing a WSET diploma, in 1973 he went to France for six weeks' training at Hugel in Alsace but stayed until retirement 43 years later, progressing from production trainee to export director. In 1978, David married Mimi, herself from a family of Alsace winegrowers since 1653. Son Pierre specializes in Alsace wine tourism and daughter Barbara is a reconstructive surgeon in Switzerland. David became the 2016 Grand Master of the Confrérie Saint-Etienne d'Alsace, the

oldest wine guild in France, the first foreigner to be elected. Today he manages the Confrérie's external relations and oversees events to promote Alsace wine and food culture.

[www.confrerie-st-etienne.com](http://www.confrerie-st-etienne.com)



Emile Beyer Winery

## > Emile Beyer Winery

The Emile Beyer family has historically been very well established in the Grands Crus of Pfersigberg and Eichberg, which today represent a third of their surface area of planted vines. In their immediate vicinity are the lieux-dits Premiers Crus Hohrain, Sundel and Saint Jacques. Each terroir reveals its subtlety and uniqueness through organic viticultural practices. Organic farming began in 2005 and they have been certified since 2014.

# DAY 3 - STRASBOURG

Capital of Alsace, Strasbourg is beloved for its wine culture. Its enchanting 16th and 17th-century half-timbered houses line La Petite France quarter on the banks of the Grand Île (Grand Island), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Strasbourg's Cathédrale de Notre Dame—the world's fourth tallest church—is an excellent example of 15th-century Gothic architecture. It was described by Victor Hugo as “a prodigy of the gigantesque and the delicate.” Strasbourg is known for its famous astronomical clock, and you'll find the charming Parc de l'Orangerie, where locals go for a romantic picnic, a scenic jog, or a bite at a café.







*Wine Tour at Cave de Hospice*

Enjoy the Strasbourg Hospices Wine tour and a LeGruber tasting followed by a walking tour of Le Petite France. We will taste four select wines at the Cave Hospice and 8 select wines at LeGruber. Shopping and lunch on your own in La Petite France or go back to the ship for lunch and relaxation.

## Olivier Humbrecht

Before dinner, meet Olivier Humbrecht of the renowned winery Zind-Humbrecht. Olivier will conduct a formal shipside tasting of six select wines from his cellar of different varietals and terroir. He will discuss the history and many aspects of the region's winemaking styles and techniques. Our evening dinner will feature side-by-side tastings of Zind-Humbrecht's exceptional wines paired with regional cuisine.



*Olivier Humbrecht*

Olivier Humbrecht, General Manager of Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, is the second winemaker in the world to attain Master of Wine status. With degrees from the Ecole Supérieure d'Agriculture de Purpan and Université d'Oenologie de Toulouse in Agriculture and Oenology, respectively, Olivier earned his Master of Wine certification in 1989. The same year, he took over winemaking from his father, continuing an unbroken lineage that extends back to the year 1620. Since 2002, he has served as President of the Syndicat International des Vignerons en Culture Bio-Dynamique/Bodyvin (SIVCBD). He became President of the Alsace Grand Cru Association in 2011. [For more on Zind-Humbrecht, view this link.](#)



*Zind-Humbrecht Wines*

# DAY 4 - MANNHEIM

Mannheim is where the gilded Mannheim Palace and Jesuit Church beckon. Mannheim is a 'chessboard' city, with the streets between the Neckar River and the palace having been laid out in a strict grid formation in the 17th century. These streets are home to a wide range of sights and cultural attractions. Mannheim's most famous landmark is the yellow-and-red sandstone Barockschloss Mannheim, Germany's largest Baroque palace.



*Mannheim*

**Morning optional activities for this day include:**

- **Walking tour of Mannheim:** Visit the stunning and historic Mannheim Baroque Palace and free time for shopping. Return to ship for lunch and sail to Rüdenheim.
- **All-Day Wine Tour and Tastings:** Visit three different wine regions and explore the history of these famous regions led by Paula Sidore.
  - Drive from Mannheim Ferry to Sekthaus Raumland
  - Tasting and cellar tour at Weingut Wittman: [Link to more information.](#)
  - Drive from Laumersheim to Weingut Kühling-Gillot/Bodenheim
  - Wine tasting and light lunch at Weingut Kühling-Gillot
  - Travel from Bodenheim to Kloster Eberbach
  - Tasting and vineyard tour at Kloster Eberbach
  - Drive from Eltville to Rüdenheim Ferry for boarding

Prior to dinner, there will be a tasting featuring one wine from each estate visited that day. Dinner features exceptional wines of the regions that have cruised through, including Pfalz, Rheinhessen, Nahe, and Rheingau.

# DAY 5 - RÜDESHEIM



*Rüdesheim*

The gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Upper Middle Rhine Valley Site, Rüdesheim has a long history dating back to Roman times. Known for its winemaking, especially its superior Rieslings, the idyllic town is a delight for visiting travelers. In the heart of Rüdesheim's old town is Drosselgasse, the famous medieval lane lined with traditional taverns, colorful shops, and inviting cafés. Other top experiences include Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Cabinet, a museum with self-playing instruments. Enjoy Rüdesheimer Kaffee (coffee with liqueur), a designated historical highlight.

## **Morning options:**

- Mini-train to scenic gondola ride
- Mini-train to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Cabinet
- Vineyard hiking tour: a six-mile hike through the vineyards with breathtaking views of the Rhine River Valley

# DAY 5 - LAHNSTEIN



*Lahnstein*

A heavily fortified town of strategic importance during medieval times, many old gates and towers are still in existence here. Lahnstein is a few miles south of Koblenz and sits at the confluence of the Lahn and Rhine Rivers. Lahnstein has the famous Lahneck Castle. [Click here for more information on Lahneck Castle.](#)



*Lahneck Castle*

## Afternoon options:

- Visit the historic Lahneck Castle
- Free time to explore Lahnstein from 4:30 to 6:00 pm
- Dinner with wines from Baden, Württemberg and Franken, with a focus on pinot noir wines.

# DAY 6 - COLOGNE



*Cologne*

The fourth largest city in Germany, Cologne (called Köln by native speakers) is a major center of culture with over 30 museums and hundreds of galleries. But its most iconic landmarks are certainly the impressive Cologne Cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Hohenzollern Bridge. You can also visit the Shrine of the Three Kings. Gilded with gemstones, enamels, and sculptures and made of bronze and silver, the shrine is believed to hold the remains of the Three Wise Men. The historic city has three standing medieval city gates (out of an original 12). The Rathaus, originally built in the 12th century, is the oldest city hall in the nation and is still in use. Be sure to enjoy a Kölsch beer while visiting.

## **Afternoon options:**

- Holy City walking tour and cathedral visit
- Kölsch Beer Tasting
- Bruhl Palace Tour [Click here for more information.](#)



*Brühl Palace*

Pre-dinner — meet in the lounge for an “Ask the Expert” session with Paula Sidore.

► Dinner with wines from Mosel, Ahr, and Mittelrhein.

# DAY 7 - AMSTERDAM



*Amsterdam*

The capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam is one of Europe's most magnificent cities. From the blooming tulips of nearby Keukenhof Gardens to the picturesque canals (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to the lively Jordaan district and '9 Streets' to the flashier Red Light District, Amsterdam is always vibrant, day and night. Home to Rembrandt and Anne Frank, Amsterdam features over 70 museums. Of all that Amsterdam has to offer, perhaps its most enduring sights are its iconic canals. These 165 man-made canals encircle the city in a labyrinthine network. They are adorned with beautiful rows of homes, 2,500 houseboats, 1,550 so-called 'monumental buildings,' 1,281 bridges, and miles of colorful streets. The oldest stock exchange in the world can also be found in Amsterdam.

## **Afternoon Options:**

- Canal cruise tour
  - A Taste of Amsterdam tour
- Dinner with exceptional wines paired by Paula with wine tasting notes.

# DAY 8 - AMSTERDAM

## **Disembarkation in AM**

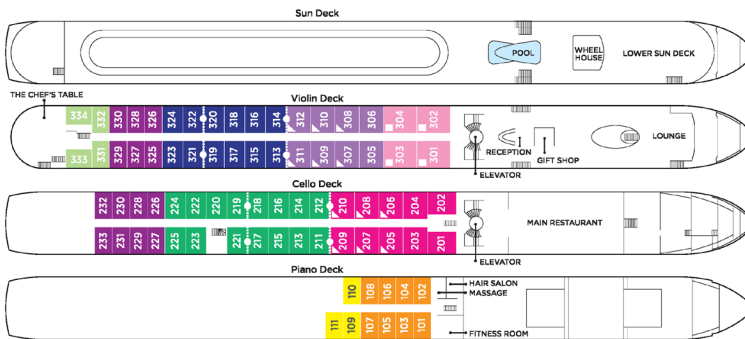
Arrange for your own transportation to the airport, train station or hotel. Departures from the ship are at 4:00 am and 10:00 am. Taxis, Uber, or the like may be your best option.

# PRICING FOR CRUISE

Pricing for single and double occupancy cabins is below. A 50% deposit will be required at registration. Please note that you will only be reserving a category of cabin. Your specific cabin will be assigned closer to departure. Please don't delay, as we believe this high-quality cruise will sell out quickly. Please click here to register: [2024 Rhine River Cruise](#)

Cabin Category	Single Occupancy	(Price Per Couple) Double Occupancy
E	\$6,200	N/A
D	\$6,600	N/A
CB	\$6,500	N/A
CA	N/A	\$13,700
BB	N/A	\$14,800
BA	N/A	\$14,800
AB	N/A	\$15,500
AA	N/A	\$15,500
SS	N/A	\$19,000

## AMAMORA

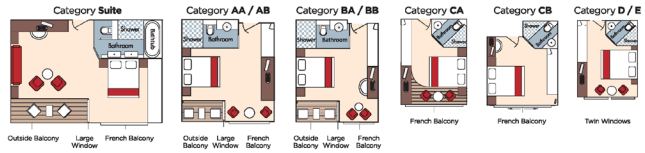


### Technical Data

Year Built: Amamora 2019  
 Length: 443 ft.  
 Width: 38 ft.  
 Crew: 51  
 Staterooms: 78  
 Passengers: 156  
 Registry: Switzerland

Elevator on Amamora reaches Main Restaurant, Lobby/Main Lounge and staterooms on Violin, Cello and Piano Deck.

- Suite** Violin Deck/French & Outside Balcony - 350 sq. ft.
- Cat. AA** Violin Deck/French & Outside Balcony - 235 sq. ft.
- Cat. AB** Cello Deck/French & Outside Balcony - 235 sq. ft.
- Cat. BA** Violin Deck/French & Outside Balcony - 210 sq. ft.
- Cat. BB** Cello Deck/French & Outside Balcony - 210 sq. ft.
- Cat. CA** Violin & Cello Deck/French Balcony - 170 sq. ft.
- Cat. CB** Violin Deck/French Balcony - 155 sq. ft.
- Cat. D** Piano Deck/Fixed Windows - 160 sq. ft.
- Cat. E** Piano Deck/Fixed Windows - 160 sq. ft.



- Staterooms can become connecting by request.
- Up to triple occupancy.
- Up to quadruple occupancy.

Note: Stateroom layouts are not to scale. Staterooms 201 & 202 are slightly modified.